

## **Green Certification Update**

### **GREEN CERTIFICATION UPDATE**

#### **Green Certification - It's Your Decision**

When the Division of Forestry created the Indiana Classified Forest Certified Group (ICFCG, FSC – C071226), all eligible landowners became green certified. At your next re-inspection, you will be given a Green Certification Benefit Decision form. On the form you will either confirm that you want to remain in the ICFCG or decline. You need to fill out only one form, not one form per tract.

Green Certification is voluntary. You can leave the certified group at any time by completing a Green Certification Departure Request form. Your district forester can provide copies.

Even if you never plan to harvest timber, you can be part of the certified group and receive the recognition of owning a well-managed forest. The choice is yours.

#### **NEW: 2017 Trained Logger Requirement**

Starting Jan. 1, 2017, timber harvests on the certified classified forests will need to be done by timber harvesting crews that meet a minimum training requirement. Whenever the site is actively being harvested, at least one person on the crew must meet this requirement.

A minimally trained individual will have completed Indiana Cutter Level 1 training and Introduction to BMP training. As part of the minimum training standard, each person has to have completed another cutter training course within the past three years and completed BMP training within the last three years. Additionally, each “certified” trained professional logger must take a minimum of eight hours of Indiana Logger training within two years in order to maintain certification.

Starting in 2017, it will be your responsibility as a landowner to make sure the crew meets the training standard and that the crew knows that it must have at least one person that meets that standard on site at all times when there is harvesting activity. The Division of Forestry is working on a database on which you will be able to check logger qualifications.

#### **NEW: Legacy & Wildlife Trees**

In order to keep and develop wildlife habitat, the following types of trees should be retained during a timber harvest or other woodland management activity:

- *Legacy trees*: Individual old trees that function as a refuge or provide important structural habitat values. “Wolf” trees at home sites, along abandoned road beds, etc. are recommended for retention.
- *Large live trees*: The goal is to retain at least three live trees greater than 19 inches dbh per acre.
- *Snags & Culls*: The goal is to retain/create at least four snags greater than 5 inches per acre with an optimum target of seven snags. Standing snags and culls not salvaged should be left standing, except where they pose a human safety hazard. Culls may be deadened (girdle, herbicide) when necessary to achieve a management goal, but should be left standing. A tree with less than 10 percent live canopy should be considered a snag. Snags that have no remaining bark or no visible cracks, splits, or hollows may be felled as can any snags leaning more than 45 degrees from vertical. Cull trees are trees with minimal monetary value that are to be removed or deadened to make space and resources available for better trees.

Legacy and wildlife trees should be generally representative of the species mixture on the site.

## New: Rutting Guidelines Updated

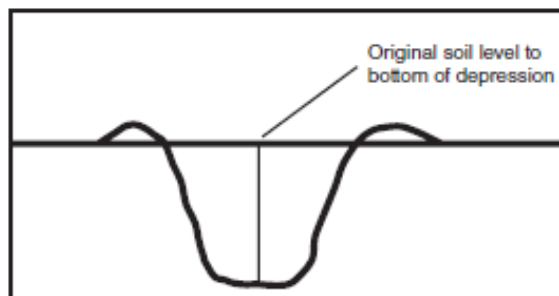


Figure 1 – A rut with the cross section for measure that is level with the original soil level.

Protect your soils during forest management activities. Once soil is damaged, it can take thousands of years to recover. In 2015, BMP rutting guidelines were updated to help you protect your forest floor.

For the purposes of this guideline, a rut is a depression made in the soil surface by the passage of a vehicle or equipment. Often these depressions occur when the soil strength is not sufficient to support an applied load. The depth of a rut for this guideline is measured from the adjacent soil level to the top of the tread or “lug” of the depression. “Cupping” or “splash” at the top of the depression above the original soil level is not to be the top of the measurement (Figure 1).

The total amount of rutting is limited. Rutting greater than 12 inches deep shall not exceed an average of 200 feet per acre in the general harvest area (GHA), with no more than 400 feet of rutting on any 1 acre. The general harvest area is defined as the area within the boundaries of the harvest unit, minus the area in the landings and access road. In the GHA, the length of a rut made by the wheels or track on each side of a machine is to be measured separately and added to determine the total length of rutting. The access roads and landings are not to be included in the GHA because they are highly impacted areas that are understood to have high compaction and some rutting during wet conditions.

Harvest Area	Rutting Restrictions	Remediation/Maintenance Actions
General harvest Area	No rut shall exceed 18” in any part of the harvest area.	Any rut deeper than 12” for longer than 50 ft must be smoothed and stabilized.
Access Road	No rut shall exceed 18” on access roads	Any rut deeper than 8” for longer than 50 ft must be smoothed and stabilized.
Log Landing	No rut shall exceed 24” on log landings	Any rut deeper than 18” for longer than 50 ft must be smoothed and stabilized.
Skid Trail	No rut shall exceed 18” on skid trails **Except main skid trails(24”)	Any rut deeper than 12” for longer than 50 ft must be smoothed and stabilized.
Stream Crossing	Rutting limited to 8” and should be smoothed and stabilized after the harvest is completed	All rutting at stream crossings must be smoothed and stabilized to ensure the integrity of the stream bank and bed
RMZ/Sensitive Areas	Rutting shall be limited to 12” maximum depth	Rutting deeper than 8 inches should be avoided. Smoothing of ruts deeper than 6 inches is only recommended if the conditions are fairly dry and will not further disturb the area.

\* The main skid trails are those that are immediately connected to the landing and are for the conveyance of logs and stems from secondary trails to the landing.

## **Banned Chemical List Update**

Being Green Certified restricts the pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, etc.) you can use on your certified forest or tree planting. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) bans the use of “high hazardous” pesticides. High hazardous pesticides are those that remain in the soil longer than needed for the intended use or that contain chemical components that may build up in plants or animals.

In February 2015, FSC updated its list of highly hazardous pesticides. The pesticides 2,4-D and picloram are frequently used for forest applications. One formulation of 2,4-D (CAS# 94-75-7) and one formulation of picloram (CAS # 1918-02-1) are on the banned list.

There are more than 100 herbicides licensed in Indiana that contain the banned formulation of 2,4-D. The good news is that those herbicides focus on lawn and turf applications. The herbicides labeled for tree/shrub application, such as Crossbow, Pathway, Tordon RTU, and Triplet contain formulations of 2,4-D that are not banned.

There are currently only two herbicides registered in Indiana that contain the banned formulation of picloram: Picloram Technical Herbicide (Dow) and Graslan L Specialty Herbicide (Dow). Tordon K, Tordon RTU, and Pathway do not contain the banned formulation.

If you have a pond or lake in your classified area and you have used copper sulfate in the past for algae treatment, you must check if your formulation is banned. Copper sulfate products with a CAS# of 1333-22-8 should not be used.

How can you tell if your herbicide contains one of the banned formulations?

- 1) Check if the active ingredients in your chemical are on banned chemicals list on the Division of Forestry’s webpage at [dnr.IN.gov/forestry/7536.htm](http://dnr.IN.gov/forestry/7536.htm) (*FSC Policy on Pesticides* link). If none of the ingredients are on the list, use the chemical. If one of the active ingredients is on the banned list, write down the banned CAS number and go to step 2.
- 2) Check the CAS number on the herbicide’s Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). You can find MSDS online by searching the herbicide name and “MSDS.” The Composition/Information on Ingredients section of the MSDS lists the chemical and its CAS#. If the case numbers match, don’t use the herbicide. It’s banned.

<b>Simply Dead Herbicide</b>			
<b>1. PRODUCT AND COMPANY IDENTIFICATION</b>			
<b>Product:</b> Simply Dead Herbicide			
<b>Company Identification:</b>			
Stump Chemical, LLC			
123 Dead Tree Lane			
Nowhere, IN 47654			
<b>2. COMPOSITION:</b>			
Picloram	CAS# 006753-47-5	5.5%	
Dimethylamine salt of 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid	CAS# 000094-75-7	20.5%	
Balance, Total including:		<u>74.0%</u>	
Ethylene glycol	CAS# 000107-21-1		

Need help figuring out if your herbicide contains a banned chemical? Talk to your district forester or call our certification coordinator, Brenda Huter, at (317) 232-0142. When you apply pesticides, make sure to read and follow the label instructions. **The label is the law.**

Figure 2: Should you use this chemical? No. The CAS# for the 2,4-D matches the banned 2,4-D formulation.

## **Timber!**

Thinking about harvesting timber on your FSC-certified forest? Contact your district forester for the information you need to sell your timber as FSC certified. Even if you don't plan to sell your timber as FSC certified, you still must contact your district forester in order to do a timber harvest on certified woodland.

## **Learn More**

For more information about Green Certification and the Indiana Classified Forest Certified Group, see **[dnr.IN.gov/forestry/7536.htm](http://dnr.IN.gov/forestry/7536.htm)**, which shows the ICFCG Umbrella Plan. This plan contains all the details and requirements for the certified group. The website also provides copies of the FSC standards, FSC policy documents and audit reports. If you don't have access to the web, contact your district forester for the information.

## **FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL® (FSC®)**

In 2010, FSC shifted from nine regional standards in the U.S. to one national standard. The FSC principles remain the same, but the criteria to determine if group members are meeting the principles have changed slightly.

### **FSC-US FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD**

#### **Principle #1: Compliance with Laws and FSC Principles**

Forest management shall respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur, and international treaties and agreements to which the country is signatory, and comply with all FSC Principles and Criteria.

#### **Principle #2: Tenure and Use Rights and Responsibilities**

Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.

#### **Principle #3: Indigenous Peoples' Rights**

The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognized and respected.

#### **Principle #4: Community Relations and Workers' Rights**

Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities.

#### **Principle #5: Benefits from the Forest**

Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest's multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.

#### **Principle #6: Environmental Impact**

Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.

#### **Principle #7: Management Plan**

A management plan – appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations – shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long-term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.

**Principle #8: Monitoring and Assessment**

Monitoring shall be conducted – appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management – to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.

**Principle #9: Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forests**

Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.

**Principle #10: Plantations**

Plantations shall be planned and managed in accordance with Principles and Criteria 1-9, and Principle 10 and its Criteria. While plantations can provide an array of social and economic benefits, and can contribute to satisfying the world's need for forest products, they should complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.